

CLAIMS

I Claim:

Sub 1

- 1 A water-like fluid for consumption by humans and animals
- 2 comprising:
- 3 between 0.1% and 10% by weight water soluble indigestible fiber;
- 4 and
- 5 naturally occurring water, wherein fewer than 10 calories per 100
- 6 ml is metabolized by a human when consuming the water-
- 7 like fluid and wherein the water-like fluid contains less than
- 8 500 mg./l of soluble salts.

Sub B1

- 2 The water-like fluid of Claim 1 further comprising a soluble
- 3 food grade color.
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Sub B1  
4. The water-like fluid of Claim 1, wherein the water soluble  
2 indigestible fiber is selected from the group consisting of plant mucilage, plant  
3 gums, dextrins, maltodextrins, galactomannans, arabanogalactans, beta glucans,  
4 cellulose ethers, pectins, pectic material, water-soluble hemicellulose, inulin,  
5 alginates, agar, carrageenan, psyllium, guar gum, gum traganth, gum karya, gum  
6 ghatti, gum acacia, gum arabic, partially hydrolyzed products thereof and  
7 mixtures thereof.

Sub a2  
5. The water-like fluid of Claim 1, wherein the water-soluble  
2 indigestible fiber and naturally occurring water form an optically clear solution.

6. A water-like fluid for consumption by humans and animals  
2 comprising:  
3 between 0.1% and 10% by weight water soluble indigestible fiber  
4 selected from the group consisting of dextrins, maltodextrins,  
5 galactomannans, cellulose ethers, inulin, alginates, agar,  
6 carrageenan, psyllium, guar gum, gum traganth, gum karya,  
7 gum ghatti, gum acacia, gum arabic, partially hydrolyzed  
8 products thereof and mixtures thereof; and  
9 naturally occurring water, wherein the naturally occurring water and  
10 the water soluble indigestible fiber form an optically clear  
11 solution, wherein fewer than 10 calories per 100 ml are

Sub a2)

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metabolized by a human when consuming the water-like

13

fluid, and wherein the water-like fluid contains less than 500

14

mg./l of soluble salts.

Sub B 15

1

7. The water-like fluid of Claim 6 further comprising a soluble

2

food grade color.

1

8. The water-like fluid of Claim 7, wherein the soluble food

2

grade color acts as an indicator of an amount of the water soluble indigestible

3

fiber contained in the water-like fluid.

2 animals:

9. A water-like fluid comprising for consumption by humans and between 0.1% and 10% by weight water soluble indigestible fiber selected from the group consisting of dextrans, maltodextrins, inulin, guar gum, partially hydrolyzed products thereof and mixtures thereof; and naturally occurring water, wherein the naturally occurring water and the water soluble indigestible fiber form an optically clear solution, wherein fewer than 10 calories per 100 ml are metabolized by a human when consuming the water-like fluid, and wherein the water-like fluid contains less than 500 mg./l of soluble salts.

2 food grade color.

1 11. The water-like fluid of Claim 10, wherein the soluble food  
2 grade color acts as an indicator of an amount of the water soluble indigestible  
3 fiber contained in the water-like fluid.

add A4